



Water Department

Water Commission
7:00 p.m. –December 7, 2015
Council Chambers
809 Center Street, Santa Cruz

Minutes of a Water Commission Meeting

Call to Order: Chair D. Baskin called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Present: D. Baskin, D. Schwarm, A. Schiffrin, D. Stearns, W. Wadlow, and L. Wilshusen, G. Mead

Absent:

Staff: H. Luckenbach, Deputy Director/Engineering Manager; T. Goddard Administrative Services Manager; C. Berry, Watershed Compliance Manager; A. Poncato, Administrative Assistant III

Others: 1 member of the public.

Presentation: There were no presentations.

Statement of Disqualification: There were no statements of disqualification.

Oral Communications: Oral communications made by S. McGilvray.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Consent Agenda

3. Approve the November 2, 2015 Water Commission Minutes
4. 2016 Water Commission Calendar

Commissioner Schiffrin moved the consent agenda. Commissioner Wilshusen seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

Items removed from Consent Agenda

1. City Council Actions Affecting Water

North Coast System Rehabilitation Project-Phase 3 – Award of Contract (WT)

Commissioner Mead reads the discussion material presented in the North Coast Rehabilitation Project-Phase 3 Award of Contract staff report in regards to the significant amount of water that

escaped during the North Coast Pipeline leak in October, 2015. He also mentions the water leak audit within Distribution a few months back and wonders why there are not meters that track the flow and loss of water between the Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant and Loch Lomond as well as Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant and the North Coast Pipeline. He requests a presentation about looking into what it would take to monitor the flow between the Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant and both Loch Lomond and the North Coast Pipeline.

- Response: Mr. Goddard explains that there are meters at the Laguna, Liddell and Majors watersheds, there is a meter where the Laguna and Liddell water sources come together on Highway 1 and a meter at the North Coast pump station.

Commissioner Mead questions if the water is metered for the north coast farmers.

- Response: Mr. Goddard confirms that the farms that take from the water system are fully metered.

Progress Report and Requested Action on Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Management Issues (WT)

Commissioner Schiffrin voiced his concern about the City being a minority on the appointed Board of Directors. Will the agency have the authority to prevent the City from taking its allotted share of water?

- Response: Commissioner Baskin states that this is a consensus based agreement. If the parties cannot reach an agreement that serves the needs of all the agencies then the agencies should have the right to pull out of the agreement. Please keep in mind that this agreement is a preliminary framework to how the agencies can work at the beginning, but as the agency gets formed they anticipate that they will need to revise their articles to reflect how they want to structure the agency.

Commissioner Wadlow questions where and how will the coordination exist between the implementation of SGMA and the pursuit of the preferred alternative that the City Council adopted from the WSAC recommendation?

- Response: Ms. Luckenbach states that it has not yet been determined. However, the small scale current water transfer project we are involved in will give us the opportunity to observe how the operational agreements will work as well as determine who is responsible for the monitoring.

Commissioner Schiffrin moved to accept the information. Commissioner Mead seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

2. WSAC related outreach

Commissioners Wadlow and Wilshusen question why is the report was sent to a group of people who no longer function as a committee?

- Response: Commissioner Baskin states that when the City Council approved the WSAC recommendation, a motion was carried to support staffs continuing public information and engagement on the water supply strategy. Commissioner Baskin asked Water Director

Menard to include this update in the current Water Commission packet with hopes the Commission would be interested in participating in the outreach and use it as a vehicle to get updated with the approved plan.

Additional Comments

- Commissioner Wilshusen believes outreach work for the approved WSAC recommendation and updating the urban water management plan should be the responsibility of Water Department staff and the Water Commission, not former members of WSAC.
- Commissioner Baskin voices his concern about what type of training future outreach group members will receive and believes everyone involved in outreach should be sharing the same information with the public.

Commissioner Schiffrin moved to accept the information. Commissioner Mead seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

5. Informational Memo on Water Budget Based Rate Structures for Single Family Residential Customers

Commissioner Wilshusen refers to SFR Usage Efficiency Comparison and questions why the default household size used to determine the indoor water budget dropped to 3 persons instead of 4 persons.

- Response: Mr. Goddard explained that the memo comparing different scenarios to assess whether a budget-based rate structure would make sense in Santa Cruz; there is no connection between this report and the approach to rationing.

Additional Comments

- Commissioner Schiffrin states that there should have been an explanation as to why the default household size changed from 4 persons per household to 3 persons per household in this report.

Commissioner Schiffrin moved to accept the information. Commissioner Mead seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

General Business

1. Loch Lomond Emergency Prep Work Update

Mr. Berry provided the presentation summarizing the Loch Lomond Emergency Prep Work Update and responded to Commission questions.

Commission Questions/Comments

Additional Comments

- Both Commissioners Wilshusen and Sterns thank Mr. Berry for including this in the Commission packet and for the preparatory work that has been done.
- Commissioner Baskin stated he began to like the ASR option more during the WSAC process because this option stores water underneath the ground which will protect our water storage during a fire.

Commissioner Wilshusen moved to accept the report. Commissioner Sterns seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

Subcommittee/Advisory Body Oral Reports

Municipal Code Subcommittee

- The subcommittee met in October. We have replied to all of the comments and the City Attorney is crafting some language that will be brought to the subcommittee in January and then bring the revised municipal code back in February.

Directors Oral Report No action shall be taken on this item.

- Loch Lomond reservoir is currently at 66% capacity with a heavy rain forecast in the next week.
- We have not used the Felton Diversion yet this season. It takes a lot of continuous flow in the river before we are able to inflate the dam and start pumping it up.
- We finished the initial study for the water transfer project and will be posting that on Wednesday for its 30 day review with hopes that we can start the agreement sometime in February.

Questions and Comments Regarding the Director's Oral Report

The reservoir has been at 66% capacity for the past few weeks, even with a number of rain events that has not seemed to affect water levels.

- Response: The ground is very dry and it takes about a foot of rain, if not more, before we begin to see runoff emerge. You would see the reservoir levels rise a little with an inch or two of rain, but there has been less rain at Loch Lomond than in town. The rule of thumb after saturation is that about an inch of rainfall produces about a foot of rise in the runoff after saturation and we are 19 feet below the spillway at this point.

Aren't the water levels updated weekly in the Santa Cruz Sentinel? It hasn't been published in a while.

- Response: We update those figures each Thursday for the week ending on Wednesday and the Sentinel picks it up on Friday. One of our conservation employees was out of the office so the numbers may not have been updated last week.

We are far from saturation?

- Response: Yes, we are far from saturation. We dug some test holes for some wetlands projects last week and we found moisture not far from the surface and further down from the moisture was all dry like a desert.

What are we doing in terms of the release for the creek?

- Response: .2cfs is the terms of our agreement. We met with resource agencies and federal government a few weeks ago and they are very interested in seeing this go back to normal when it starts raining. We assume our temporary urgency change petition will expire in February and we are hoping we will not need to have it renewed.

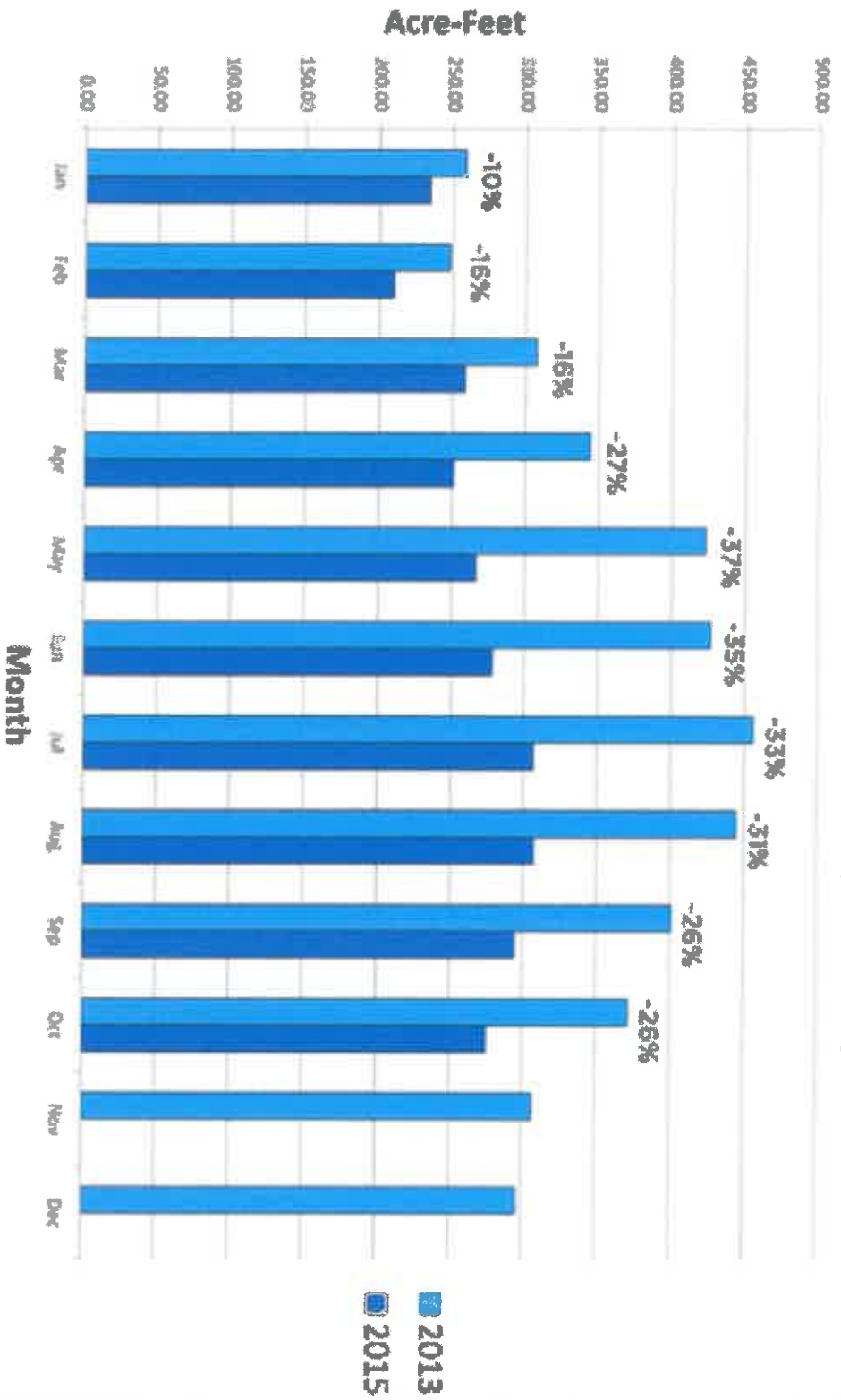
Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm. The next regular meeting of the Water Commission is scheduled for January 4, 2016 at 7:00p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Staff

Annual Monthly Water Production: 2013 vs 2015

Total System Water Production (Acre-Feet)



Cumulative Reduction Through October 31, 2015: -27%